



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

JUL 27 2016

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF

S-6J

The Honorable Anthony Copeland  
4527 Indianapolis Boulevard  
East Chicago, Indiana 46312

Dear Mayor Copeland:

I am responding to your email of July 22, 2016 in which you asked the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to provide the City of East Chicago, Indiana and the East Chicago Housing Authority with a description of what we view to be best practices associated with mowing the lawns within the West Calumet Housing Complex. In the past, EPA has observed that lawn mowing within the complex has created dust clouds. Like you, we want to reduce the exposure of residents to dirt and dust.

The EPA does not believe that current conditions necessitate a moratorium on mowing. The Agency makes the following recommendations to contractors who mow the lawn within the complex in order to minimize dust generation during mowing:

- (1) Do not mow over bare areas
- (2) Do not mow over mulched areas
- (3) Mow less frequently; instead of weekly, bi-weekly
- (4) Raise the mower blade 2"-3" so that the grass is not cut short
- (5) Reduce the blade speed if possible
- (6) Do not collect clippings; leave clippings in place
- (7) Do not use a leaf blower to remove dust or grass from walkways; instead, use a broom

We are also making these same recommendations to the East Chicago Park Department and East Chicago School District with respect to Goodman Park and the Carrie Gosch Elementary School.

If you have any questions about these procedures or would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact Associate Regional Counsel, Steven P. Kaiser. Mr. Kaiser may be reached at (312) 353-3804 and will be glad to schedule a call with the relevant staff members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas Ballotti", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Douglas Ballotti, Acting Director  
Superfund Division



cc: East Chicago Park Department  
East Chicago School District

Anthony Serna, President  
East Chicago Park Board  
1615 E. 142<sup>nd</sup> Street  
East Chicago, Indiana 46312

Dr. Paige McNulty, Superintendent  
East Chicago School District  
1401 East 144<sup>th</sup> Street  
East Chicago, Indiana 46312